

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
DEC 22 2006

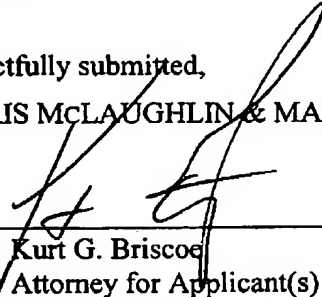
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The sole issue for consideration is the rejection of claims 1 – 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Alt et al. ("Alt"), U.S. Patent No. 6,767,360. In response, Applicants submit that Alt is not prior art against the instant application. Thus, the present invention was made prior to Alt's U.S. filing date of February 8, 2001. Applicants are still in the process of assembling the appropriate proofs, and these will be filed as soon as possible.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By

  
Kurt G. Briscoe  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 33,141  
875 Third Avenue - 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10022  
Phone: (212) 808-0700  
Fax: (212) 808-0844